

NOTES

i

MOLOCH THE KING

I CANNOT leave the evidence for the sacred character of Jewish Moloch kings¹ without mentioning a suggestion which was made to me by P^{erha}P^s my friend and teacher the Rev. Professor R. H. Kennett. He i^{111 tm*} thinks that Moloch, to whom first-born children were burnt by their regarded parents in the valley of Hinnom, outside the walls of Jerusalem,² as an may have been originally the human king regarded as an incarnate ^ty^^o. deity. Certainly the name of Moloch, or rather Molech (for so it is always written in the Massoretic text³), is merely a slightly dis-

¹ See above, vol. i. pp. 17 *sqq.* the laws is abundant and unambiguous "J/it" *Dying Cod.* pp. 168 *sqq.*; that the victims were slain and burnt G. F. Moore, in *Encyclopaedia Biblica*, as a holocaust" (G. 'F. Moore, in s.7J. "Molech." The phrase trans-*Encyclopaedia Biblica*, iii. 3184). kited " make pass through the fire to Similarly Principal J. Skinner trans- Molech" (2 Kings xxiii. 10) means lates the phrase in 2 Kings xvi. 3 by properly, Professor Kennett tells me, "dedicated his son by fire," and re- " make to pass over by means of fire marks that the expression, "whatever to Molech,"⁴ where the verb has the undoubtedly sense of "make over to," "dedicate," denoted actual burning" (commentary "devote," as appears from its use in *Century Bible*). Exodus xiii. 12 ("set apart," English The practice would seem to have been Version) and Kr.ekiel xx. 26. That very ancient at Jerusalem, for tradition the children were not; made simply to placed the attempted burnt-sacrifice of pass through the fire, but were burned Isaac by his father Abraham on Mount in it, is shewn by a comparison of 2 Moriah, which was no other than Kings xvi. 3, xxiii. 10, Jeremiah Mount Zion, the site of the king's xxxiL 35, with 2 Chronicles xxviii. 3, palace and of the temple of Jehovah. Jeremiah vii. 31, xix. 5. As to the See Genesis xxii. i-iS ; 2 Chronicles use of the verb Tny in the sense of iii. i; ^T&cnzmgWiHebraiscJieArchao-⁴¹ dedicate," "devote," see G. F. *logic* (Freiburg i. Baden and Leipsic, Moore, v.7». "Molech," *Encyclopaedia* 1894), pp. 45, 233 ; T. K. Cheyne, *ttiklica*, iii. 3184; F. Brown, S. R. s.v. "Moriah," *Encyclopaedia Biblica*, Driver, and C. A. Briggs, *Hebrew* iii. 3200 jy. ami *K-nglisk Lexicon of the Old Jesta-*³ Leviticus xviii. 21, xx. ^ 2-5 ; I went (Oxford, 1906), p. 718. "The Kings xi. 7; 2 Kings xxiii. 10: testimony of both the prophets and Jeremiah xxxii. 35.